



by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist

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STOCK INDEX FUTURES

U.S. stock index futures are giving up some of the gains from Monday's massive rally.

Stock index futures advanced sharply yesterday as Treasury yields retreated from their highs from last week and eased concerns that higher interest rates would undermine equity valuations.

S&P 500 futures had the best day since June.

Stock index futures are performing well for the news.

CURRENCY FUTURES

The euro currency is lower after weak economic data showed German retail sales fell for a second month in January, and at a faster than expected rate. In addition, unemployment numbers in Germany and Spain increased in February.

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed people in Germany increased 9,000 to 2.752 million in February 2021, following a revised 37,000 decrease in the previous month and compared with market expectations of a 13,000 decline.

Euro zone consumer prices were higher in February compared with a year ago, rising for the second consecutive month. The European Union's statistics agency said consumer prices in the currency area were 0.9% higher than in February 2020, following a 0.9% year-on-year rise in January.

The Japanese yen fell to a 7-month low against the U.S. dollar after a report showed capital spending in Japan fell by 4.8% year-on-year in the fourth quarter.

The Reserve Bank of Australia held its regularly scheduled policy meeting today. As expected, the RBA's board left its official cash rate unchanged at 0.10%, and also kept its target for three-year government bonds at the same level. The RBA increased its quantitative easing program by

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buying an additional \$100bn worth of Australian government bonds. Governor Philip Lowe said the, "The bank is prepared to make further adjustments to its purchases in response to market conditions."

INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond President Thomas Barkin said the negative risks associated with the economic outlook have fallen. Mr. Barkin reiterated higher borrowing costs do not appear to be creating headwinds to growth. In addition, he said that while inflation is likely to increase in the spring he does not see any enduring increase that would be a problem.

In recent days, other Federal Reserve officials have affirmed the economy's positive outlook and shrugged off the impact of rising yields in the Treasury bond market.

Federal Reserve speakers today are Lael Brainard at 12:00 and Mary Daly at 1:00.

I believe major central banks will employ tools to mitigate rising long-term yields.

SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

March 21 S&P 500

Support 3862.00 Resistance 3914.00

March 21 U.S. Dollar Index

Support 91.000 Resistance 91.450

March 21 Euro Currency

Support 1.19880 Resistance 1.20600

March 21 Japanese Yen

Support .93470 Resistance .93640

March 21 Canadian Dollar

Support .78700 Resistance .79220

March 21 Australian Dollar

Support .77300 Resistance .78160

March 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds

Support 160¹⁰ Resistance 161²⁴

April 21 Gold

Support 1704.0 Resistance 1738.0

May 21 Copper

Support 4.0400 Resistance 4.1900

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April 21 Crude Oil

Support 59.38 Resistance 61.34

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